



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta, GA 30341-3724

December 4, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

To provide additional support for wastewater surveillance, HHS has awarded a contract to AquaVitas ([aquavitas.com](http://aquavitas.com)) to conduct SARS-CoV-2 wastewater testing. In Phase 1, the contract will test wastewater from treatment plants that serve 10% of the US population. Phase 1 will last 6 weeks. In an optional Phase 2, additional treatment plants will be enrolled to cover at least 30% of the US population and continue testing for an additional 9 weeks. Testing will begin in the next few weeks. The data generated by this contact will be submitted into the National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) at CDC and the results will be provided to state and local public health agencies to support the COVID-19 response.

In order to meet these requirements, AquaVitas needs to quickly onboard participating utilities. Engagement from public health agencies in the recruitment process provides assurance that the data will be considered for public health decision-making and is a very compelling justification for utility participation. We would greatly appreciate any assistance you can provide in contacting wastewater utilities in your jurisdiction. Utilities may also hear about this contract through the Water Environment Federation (WEF), which is a partner organization with CDC for NWSS. This opportunity is open to all treatment plants, whether they are currently submitting wastewater samples or not. Priority will be given to treatment plants that are serving large populations. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact AquaVitas CEO Adam Gushgari ([adam@aquavitas.com](mailto:adam@aquavitas.com)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Kirby".

Amy E. Kirby, PhD MPH  
Environmental Microbiologist  
National Wastewater Surveillance System Lead  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention